

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-15 are rejected. Claim 1 is herein amended. Claims 2-15 are herein cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

Applicant's Response to Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification because it contains amino acid sequences that are not identified by SEQ ID NOs. Applicant respectfully defers action on this point until after the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 112 are withdrawn.

Applicant's Response to Objections to the Claims

The Office Action objects to claim 3 on the grounds that polybutylene is misspelled. However, Applicant herein cancels claim 3. Thus, this objection is moot.

Applicant's Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 2, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention.

The Applicant herein cancels claims 2, 10 and 11. Thus, this rejection is moot.

Applicant's Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 10 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Satoh et al (1998) in light of Nerurkar et al. (1984).

Satoh discloses MMAC, but does not disclose or suggest “MAST (styrene/maleic anhydride copolymer).” Further, Nerurkar does not disclose or suggest “MAST (styrene/maleic anhydride copolymer).” Applicant herein amends claim 1 to recite that the cell culture substrate is coated with “MAST (styrene/maleic anhydride copolymer)” which is a hydrophobic binding-absorptive polymer. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art does not disclose or suggest the embodiments as claimed.

Additionally, Applicant notes that Examples 15 and 16 describe that MAST is superior to MBAC and Examples 18 and 16 describe that MAST is superior to MMAC. In addition, unlike MMAC, MAST can be applied to other substrate such as unwoven synthetic polymer sheet, carbon nanofiber, inorganic crystals (SiO₂, TiO₂, LiTaO₃), semi-conductor (GaAs HEMT: High Electron Mobility Transducer), ITO (Indium Tin Oxide) in addition to polystyrene (plastic) and collagen fiber. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that cited art does not disclose or suggest the embodiment of claim 1. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant's Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Soltys et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,200,181) in view of Stakheeva-Kaverzneva (1943) and Lean et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0251135).

In response, Applicant respectfully submits that Soltys, Stakheeva-Kaverzneva and Lean do not disclose or suggest "MAST (styrene/maleic anhydride copolymer)." As noted above, Applicant herein amends claim 1 to recite that the cell culture substrate is coated with "MAST (styrene/maleic anhydride copolymer)" which is a hydrophobic binding-absorptive polymer. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art does not disclose or suggest the embodiments as claimed.

As explained above, Applicant notes that Examples 15 and 16 describe that MAST is superior to MBAC and Examples 18 and 16 describe that MAST is superior to MMAC. In addition, unlike MMAC, MAST can be applied to other substrate such as unwoven synthetic polymer sheet, carbon nanofiber, inorganic crystals (SiO₂, TiO₂, LiTaO₃), semi-conductor (GaAs HEMT: High Electron Mobility Transducer), ITO (Indium Tin Oxide) in addition to polystyrene (plastic) and collagen fiber. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that cited art does not disclose or suggest the embodiment of claim 1. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/551,052
Art Unit: 1651

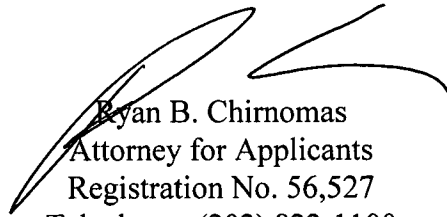
Amendment
Attorney Docket No. 053111

If the Examiner deems that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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